



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, April 28, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Emergency Programs

Citrus Canker - An important part of the eradication program has been the compensation provided to commercial growers that have had trees destroyed as a result being infected or exposed to citrus canker. Previously, funds had been made available for compensation by Congress. In 2002 these funds were exhausted, and there are currently about 30 growers that have not been compensated. The 2003 appropriations bill contained the authority for USDA to get up to \$18.5 million for compensation for commercial growers and nurseries. Within the next several weeks APHIS will again be accepting applications for compensation from commercial citrus growers. In order to provide compensation for nurseries, APHIS will first have to publish a proposal outlining rates of compensation and eligibility, then after an appropriate comment period a final rule. We anticipate that this process should be completed by sometime in the Fall of 2003.

Contact: Stephen Poe (301) 734-8899

Stephen.R.Poe@USDA.gov

Plum Pox - The D strain of PPV that is present in Pennsylvania has not been reported to infect cherry trees. APHIS and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture are currently conducting a survey of cherry trees within 500 feet of infested properties (properties where PPV had been found and where host trees had been destroyed) to insure that the situation in Pennsylvania does not represent an exception to the generally held assumptions concerning the susceptibility of cherries. The survey of other stone fruit orchards that are hosts of the D strain of PPV (peach, nectarine, plum, apricots) in Pennsylvania is scheduled to begin on May 19, 2003.

Contact: Stephen Poe (301) 734-8899

Stephen.R.Poe@USDA.gov

Domestic Programs

Mexican Fruit Fly

California - The major interest is in the Mexican fruit fly control project in Valley Center, California. To date there have been 281 Mexican fruit fly detections over a 200 square mile area. The two recent detections of immature adults have been expected due to emergence period of the fly and of no consequence at this time. There are 15,485 acres under regulatory control, 15,087 of which are avocados and citrus. Treatment with malathion and spinosad (inorganic and organic formulations) bait spray by private growers and CDFG, respectively, is ongoing. We anticipate transition to sterile insect release technology to occur near the end of the second life cycle period, about mid-June.

There have been two recent small Mexican fruit fly outbreaks north of the current Valley Center regulated area in the De Luz area, near Temecula, California. The detections have triggered immediate delimiting trapping, fruit cutting for larvae detection, and spinosad treatment. As of April 18, 2003, no new detections have occurred.

There are sporadic small Mexican and Oriental fruit fly outbreaks in the urban areas of the Los Angeles basin. These are early season outbreaks with delimiting trapping, spinosad bait treatment, and sterile insect technique proving to be effective controls.

Texas - All of the citrus production areas in south Texas are under regulation for the Mexican fruit fly. This year, the fly populations increased quickly and triggered the approved regulatory protocol response. Fortunately, most of the citrus harvest has been completed.

The sterile Mexican fruit fly production facility in Mission, Texas is ramping up its capacity in anticipation of providing sterile flies for the Mexican fruit fly control project in Valley Center, California.

The Sapote fruit fly control program is progressing with no new adult or larval detections from the initial finds. The control program is well into the second life cycle period. We anticipate lifting regulations after the third



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, April 28, 2003

life cycle period if no new detections occur. We are reviewing the Sapote fruit fly biology and preferred host status to improve our future decisions regarding regulatory response to the fly's detection.

Contact: Steve Knight (301) 734-8039

Stephen.A.Knight@USDA.gov

Sudden oak death - A series of meetings, presentations, panels, and tours in Oregon focused on the Federal *P. ramorum* regulations and Oregon's program to exclude and eradicate this disease. The program included visiting a large nursery and a Christmas tree grower shipping out 750,000 cut trees each year. The Brookings area of Curry County where eradication for *P. ramorum* is in progress was also toured. Wednesday was Oregon's symposium: "Perspectives on the Sudden Oak Death Syndrome: Risks to Oregon Agriculture and Forestry" in Corvallis where the PM gave a presentation on PPQ's current/pending regulations and on PPQ's and other countries' regulation of imports for *P. ramorum*. A meeting was also held with the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry (ODA and ODF) focused on ODA's request for a "special case exception" to allow Oregon to enforce regulations more strict than the Federal regulations. A formal response to ODA will be developed based on those discussions, study of the situation and further deliberations by staff and the Deputy's office.

Contact: Jonathan Jones (301) 734-5038

Jonathan.M.Jones@USDA.gov